

## **APPENDIX B**

### **INTERNATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH PARK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING REPORT**

**INTERNATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH PARK  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
SCOPING REPORT**

**Lead Agency:**

NASA, Kennedy Space Center; Florida Space Authority

**Point of Contact for Information:**

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**Cooperating Agency:**

Florida Space Authority, 100 Spaceport Way, Cape Canaveral, FL

**Point of Contact:**

Mr. Tim Franta, FSA, 100 Spaceport Way, Cape Canaveral, FL

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## **CHAPTER 1. DESCRIPTION OF SCOPING PROCESS**

The International Space Research Park Environmental Impact Statement (ISRP EIS) scoping process was initiated to receive public input on the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed construction and operations of the International Space Research Park at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The ISRP is a partnership between NASA and the State of Florida to build an environment for world-class research and technology development performed through the collaborative efforts of industry, academia, and government.

This scoping process was conducted in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. According to NEPA, Lead agencies are required to consult with federal agencies that have jurisdiction by law or special expertise on the proposed action. In addition the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), NEPA Guidelines encourage federal agencies to identify state and local cooperating agencies that have jurisdiction by law or special expertise on the proposed action. As well, they are required to solicit appropriate information from the public during the EIS process. To fulfill these requirements, NASA solicited comments (i.e., from public and private agencies and organizations) of the proposed project using the methods described in this Scoping Report.

### **Introduction**

As KSC searched for a way to replace the Korean War-era hangar that had for years served as the processing laboratory for its life science experiments aboard the Space Shuttle, it engaged Florida leaders in discussing a bold new partnership to design, construct, and operate a Space Experiments Research and Processing Laboratory (SERPL) to serve as the primary gateway to the International Space Station for its scientific experiment payloads.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush and a group of legislative leaders offered to NASA a commitment of \$30 million in state funds to build the lab that the space station needed, and to lease the lab's capacity to NASA's experiment processing contractor to perform station payload work. In addition, the lab will host researchers from Florida universities and their colleagues.

NASA and Florida leaders saw this laboratory as the start of something bigger, an opportunity to expand KSC and the state's resident research and development capabilities, recruit intellectual capital, and attract private investment to establish a robust space industry sector willing to locate here permanently.

Thus, the concept was born to establish a space research park with SERPL as its first project and a powerful magnet for additional projects that could lessen NASA's cost while helping it meet its mission, and bring both private investment and new high tech employment into the Florida economy.

As ground was broken on the SERPL project, KSC and the Florida Space Authority (FSA) were initiating a year-long concept development study. The study scope included performance of a detailed market assessment, development and analysis of a business plan, and preliminary land use planning for the ISRP. The study was completed in May

2002. The findings indicated that the concept was feasible and would allow for the development of some 2 million square feet of commercial and laboratory space and approximately 10,000 jobs within a 20-year build-out period.

Except for SERPL, the park will be “outside the gate” to allow for full 24 hour access to park tenants. The park would provide a total environment to attract, foster, and grow R&D, technology development, and commercialization and would include a strong academic presence. Commercial practices for construction and operation would prevail. Every attempt to minimize environmental impacts will be made. Environmentally friendly practices in both construction and operations would be used.

Information on the proposed development can be found on the ISRP Web Site: <http://eis.ksc.nasa.gov/index.cfm> or by contacting Mario Busacca, NASA, TA-C3, Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899 (321) 867-8456, FAX (321) 867-8040, email [Mario.Busacca-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Mario.Busacca-1@ksc.nasa.gov) NASA and the Florida Space Authority are co-leads on the preparation of this EIS.

### **Purposes of Public Scoping Meetings**

The purposes were to:

- Inform the public about the background, purpose, and features of the proposed ISRP; and
- Solicit suggestions regarding:
  - Ways or considerations to improve the ISRP,
  - Alternatives proposed for the ISRP, and
  - Types of impacts from the proposed program and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS.

### **Scoping Process and Meetings Preparation**

Thorough effort was made to notify all potentially interested persons about the ISRP EIS process and the array of opportunities to provide comment. Public notification of the scoping process was done through legal notices and newspaper display ads, mailings, posting on the NASA KSC website, and contacts with news media, and interested organizations.

The Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and schedule for the scoping meetings was published October 3, 2002 and is also available on the KSC website <http://eis.ksc.nasa.gov/index.cfm> .

An initial mailing list was compiled of more than 150 individuals, agencies and organizations by the KSC Environmental Programs Office (EPO). Table 1 (Pages 5 and 6) shows a list of agencies in which coordination and consultation has been initiated. Informational brochures were mailed, describing the history of the ISRP, the descriptions of the proposed alternative sites for the ISRP, the NEPA process, and an invitation to

attend the scheduled scoping meetings. Notifications of the scoping meetings were published in the Florida Today newspaper October 18, 2002 and in the KSC Bulletin (i.e., a newsletter available to employees and contractors at KSC).

### Scoping Meeting Locations

Meeting locations and times were selected in cooperation with the Florida Space Authority to provide convenient locations and appropriate times for public comment by as many persons as feasible.

Scoping meetings were held on October 24, 2003, at the KSC Visitors Complex at 9:30 am and at the Florida Solar Energy Center on the Cocoa Campus of Brevard Community College at 7:00 pm. Additional information meetings regarding the ISRP were also held in conjunction with meetings of several community organizations; Merritt Island Home Owners Association on 11/4/02, Friends of the Enchanted Forest on 11/24/02, and KSC Employees & Contractors on 12/3/02. A total of 90 people participated in the scoping process (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of People Attending the Scoping Meetings for the International Space Research Park EIS

Meeting	Date	People Attended
KSC Visitors Complex	10/24/02	11
Florida Solar Energy Center	10/24/02	13
Merritt Island Home Owners Association	11/4/02	24
Friends of the Enchanted Forest	11/20/02	16
KSC Employees and Contractors at the Training Auditorium	12/3/02	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>90</b>

Table 1. List of Cooperating and Coordinating Agencies for the International Space Research Park EIS

Organization/Agency	Point of Contact	Title
US Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services	Ken Allen	District Manager
Brevard County	Barbara Arthur	Office of Commissioner Nancy Higgs
Brevard County	Virginia Barker	Office of Natural Resource Management
Miccosukee Tribe	Andrew Bert, Sr.	Secretary, General Council
City of Cocoa Beach	Chuck Billias	City Manager
Seminole Tribe of Florida	James E. Billie	Chairman, Tribal Council
Brevard County	Anne Birch	EEL Program Manager
City of Cape Canaveral	Bennet Boucher	City Manager
Executive Office of the Governor, PL 05 The Capitol	Governor Jeb Bush	Governor
Brevard County	Sue Carlson	County Commissioner
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	Kenneth S. Chamber	Chief
City of Oak Hill	Kim Cherbano	City Clerk
St. Johns River Water Management District	Nancy Christman	Intergovernmental Coordinator
City of Oak Hill	Susan Collins-Cook	Vice Mayor
Brevard County	Jackie Colon	County Commissioner
Florida State Clearinghouse	Cindy Cranick	Coordinator
Florida Inland Navigation District	Mark Crosley	Assistant Executive Director
National Marine Fisheries Service	David Dale	
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Dennis David	Regional Director
City of Oak Hill	Darry Evans	Mayor
Florida Department of Community Affairs	Jim Farr	Coastal Management Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Vivian Garfein	Central District Director
Florida Department of State	Fred Gaske	Historic Preservation Bureau Chief
National Marine Fisheries Service	George Getsinger	
US Senate, attn: Pat Grise	Bob Graham	US Senator
St Johns River Water Management District	Kirby Green III	Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Kenneth Haddad	Executive Director
City of Titusville	Thomas Harmer	City Manager
Brevard County	Nancy Higgs	County Commissioner
City of Cocoa	Rick Holt	City Manager
Florida Department of Transportation	Steve Homan	District Secretary

Table 1. List of Cooperating and Coordinating Agencies for the International Space Research Park EIS (Continued)

Organization/Agency	Point of Contact	Title
City of Oak Hill	Abraham Jackson	Commissioner
City of Oak Hill	Robert Jackson	Commissioner
Brevard County	Tom Jenkins	County Manager
Brevard County Metropolitan Planning Organization	Bob Kamm	
Brevard County Mosquito Control District	Scott Linkenhoker	Director
Florida Department of State, Historic Preservation	Janet Matthews	Bureau Chief, State Historic Preservation Officer, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Dept. of State
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Colonel James G May	Jacksonville District Engineer
City of Oak Hill	Ron Mercer	Commissioner
Brevard County Metropolitan Planning Organization	Barbara Myers	
Florida House District 31	Mitch Needleman	Representative, Florida Legislature
US Senate	Bill Nelson	US Senator
Canaveral National Seashore, National Park Service	Bob Newkirk	Park Superintendent
Brevard County	Randy O'Brien	County Commissioner
City of Cocoa	Judy Parrish	Mayor
45th Space Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station	Brigadier General Gregory Pavlovich	Commander
Brevard County Environmental Services	Stephen Pepper	Assistant County Manager
City of Titusville	Jeff Rainey	Vice Mayor
City of Cape Canaveral	Rocky Randels	Mayor
City of Cocoa Beach	Joanie Regan	Engineer
St. Johns River Water Management District	Troy Rice	Indian River Lagoon SWIM Program
Florida Inland Navigation District	David Roach	Executive Director
Brevard County	Truman Scarborough	County Commissioner
City of Edgewater	Don Schmidt	Mayor
City of Cocoa Beach	Janice Scott	Mayor
City of Titusville	Ron Swank	Mayor
US House, attn: Joanna Cunningham	Dave Weldon	US Representative
Brevard County, Natural Resources	Conrad White	Director
Environmental Permitting, Brevard County	Sherry Williams	
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council		

## **Scoping Meeting Procedures and Agenda**

Each meeting was preceded by a brief "open house." The public was encouraged to come early to ask questions of agency representatives, gather information, etc. Several exhibits were displayed at the majority of the scoping meetings describing the alternatives that had been identified, aerial photography of the sites, and general land cover features such as wetlands and scrub communities. Handouts included informational fliers and public comment sheets. Attendees were encouraged to sign in and be added to the mailing list. On the sign in sheet attendees could indicate if they wished to receive a copy of the Draft EIS.

The scoping meeting began with welcoming remarks and an overview of the proposed project and its background. Jim Ball, NASA KSC ISRP Project Manager, conducted this portion of the meeting. Timothy Franta, Director of Business Development and International Affairs, Florida Space Authority, proceeded with additional information regarding the: results of a Preliminary Development Plan, phasing and land use concept, development regulations, infrastructure, draft eligibility process and use guidelines, and the overall role of the Florida Space Authority in the development and implementation of the ISRP. Mario Busacca, NASA KSC Environmental Programs Office, provided information on the Environmental Impact Statement process and a brief description of the proposed project alternatives. A question and answer period followed, with answers given by the appropriate representative.

The public comment portion of the meeting then began. Speakers gave their name and organization, and spoke into the microphone for recording purposes. Opportunity was given to any persons in the audience who wished to speak. The public comment portion was later transcribed.

Meetings averaged one (1) hour in length. A total of 90 people attended the five (5) meetings. This total included members of the public and agency representatives.

## **Basis for This Summary**

This summary is based on the transcripts from the five (5) scoping meetings, plus all other materials submitted to the NASA KSC Environmental Programs Office as of January 1, 2003. In addition to the comments received at the scoping meetings, NASA received three (3) written submissions in the form of a letter and one (1) website submissions. All questions, comments and suggestions have been included. Chapter 3, General Comments, provides the range of comments and concerns offered, focusing on those most relevant to the proposed project. The comments are for the most part presented verbatim to preserve the flavor and intent of the commenter. Only in a few instances has minor editing been done for clarification.



## **CHAPTER 2. POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC**

This chapter summarizes the types of possible impacts from the proposed project and alternatives that the scoping participants suggested should be studied in the DEIS.

### **IMPACTS**

#### **Cultural**

- A review of the project information and the Florida Master Site File indicates that cultural resources are located in the proposed project area. We look forward to reviewing the ISRP proposal and coordinating with NASA in the protection and preservation of significant cultural resources. This office shall make determinations of effect on the various resources when our office receives the specific projects. If these conditions are met, the project will be consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the historic preservation aspects of Florida's Coastal Management Program.

#### **Agricultural**

- What is the impact to the development of the park with the orange grove leases to 2008?

#### **Traffic**

- What is the quantitative (magnitude and extent of the) worst-case impact of the ISRP on traffic load?
- How does this additional traffic change the road?

#### **Water/Wastewater**

- Unless the entire complex will be connected to a sanitary sewer system, an Industrial Wastewater permit will be required. Also, during the construction phase, the facility must ensure that ground water discharge to surface waters of the State meets the requirements of F.A.C. Additionally, the Department notes that the project is less than a quarter mile east of a solid waste facility, the Ransom Road Landfill. Subsection 303(d) of the Clean Water Act require the state to prepare a list of surface waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards and to establish Total Mean Daily Loads (TMDL) for those waters on a prioritized schedule. KSC is situated within Group 5 basin. The five-year water management planning cycle will begin in late 2004.

### **Species/Habitat**

- The site of the research park is critical for the preservation of the scrub jay on KSC. Therefore, the commenter would advocate Alternative 1, which would impact old citrus groves and preserve the wetlands. Alternative 2 is not acceptable as it contains scrub habitat.

### **Wetlands**

- Comments made concerning NASA's efforts to avoid and minimize impacts, and to compensate for any impacts to wetlands were greatly appreciated. The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Policy requires that each proposed project that will impact wetlands be considered under any alternative plans that would avoid impacts to those wetlands altogether or would minimize impacts to wetlands. It is recommended that the USACE have the opportunity to review your preliminary jurisdictional determination of the wetlands within the selected alternative sites. These wetlands must be delineated according to the presence of hydric soils, wetland hydrology, and wetland vegetation at the site, in accordance with the 1987 USACE wetlands delineation manual. After receipt of this information, we will schedule an onsite visit with you to verify this information.
- How much impact will the Visitors Information Center (VIC) have on the wetland drainage and transportation into the park? Where/what is the plan for mitigation?

### **General**

- Other environmental impacts would be concerned about include air and water quality, environmental pollution, threatened, endangered and species of special concern and their critical habitats. In addition, supports the preservation of historic and archeological sites.
- I am assuming that the entire complex will be connected to a sanitary sewer system. If that is the case no Industrial Waste permit will be required. During the construction phase the facility must ensure that the produced ground water discharge to surface waters of the State meets the requirements of Rules 62-621 and 62-302 F.A.C. Ground water is not involved at this time. Domestic wastewater has no comments. No proprietary comments appear to be required for this project for State Lands. There are no comments for hazardous waste. For solid waste, the project is less than a quarter of a mile east of a solid waste facility- the Ransom Road Landfill. For wastewater management KSC in the IRL is a Group 5 basin, for which the five-year cycle of resource assessment, impaired waters identification, TMDL development and implementation will begin late in 2004.

## CHAPTER 3. GENERAL COMMENTS

This chapter summarizes comments from the public that do not fit into the categories of "Impacts." They were taken directly from transcripts of the public scoping meetings or written comments sent to the NASA KSC Environmental Programs Office. The majority of this section has been copied verbatim to preserve the flavor and intent of the commenter.

### GENERAL/COMMENTS

#### General/Cooperative Agreement

- Letter to reaffirm their continued support for the development of the ISRP.
- Supports the development of the ISRP.
- Favors an agreement between NASA and the State of Florida to develop an International Space Research Park on Kennedy Space Center.
- Interesting presentation. Sounds like a good project that is beneficial to the community and state, as long as environmental damage is not done.
- When will the bypass road be completed?
- Will this tie into universities?
- How are they going to appoint the authority board members in the park?
- Is your presentation on the website?
- Who is involved in doing the study (contractor select)?
- Doesn't FSA have an office off of Grissom Road?
- Would like to know info on EIS in general, studies that have been performed.
- Does your office just do the assessment, address the problems and solutions in the EIS or do you also implement the results?
- Is this totally a NASA and FSA project to the exclusion of the AF 45SW? Why is this?
- What communications support (data, voice, video) will be available/planned to support customer and NASA integrated payload processing and test? Considered in environmental impact? Generic capability to be in place, not custom built per site.
- Are any buildings going to be disaster resistant?
- Regional Development Study - how will this fall within the EIS or with NASA?
- Who owns the road?
- Who will own the road (Space Commerce Way)?
- Urban land institute, how much info did you incorporate?
- How big is "big". Give better description of what 1 million square feet means.
- Where are the existing gates?
- Concerns of trails, sidewalks being proposed on North Merritt Island. Will these continue thru the new access?
- The Office of Transportation, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) strongly supports the ISRP project.

#### Agriculture

- Using existing orange groves, disturbed lands, is an excellent approach.
- What is the age of the groves?

## Alternatives

- Alternative 1 seems to have the least environmental impact.
- Is Alternative 2 site a non-disturbed site?
- Why is site 1 preferred over site 2?
- Are you looking at other sites besides Alternatives 1/2?
- If no site is suitable, would they consider looking off of KSC?
- Could you have chosen an alternative location on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station property, if they were an active partner?

## Resource Conservation

- Will renewable energy research be completed at the park and present renewable energy technology be applied in the construction?
- Reuse Water
- Fuel Cell? Solar Panels? Energy-related Efficiency – will this be applied?
- I believe we should be protecting the lands out on the Cape. Brevard County lands are being developed at an alarming rate. This development is moving many species off of their habitat, leaving less and less land for species to survive. NASA should be working for preservation and not developing more of their land. When does it end, how much of the Brevard County will be concrete before we decide that enough is enough? I think it is important to conserve our small planet the best that we can, it is the only home we have.
- I am involved in the study of the Space Coast Regional Airport (SCRA) interest in topping trees in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Several environmental organizations in Florida have formed an alliance for this issue.

## Economics

- Do you have a feel for where the jobs/people will come from?
- Where are the 8-10k jobs going to come from?
- Fire, security issues - rollover to the county?
- Fire/Security/Mosquito Control to be handled by who?
- Who will support it, is it self-supporting?
- Florida Today Newspaper (Saturday's edition) - Plasma? - Would this be a potential tenant?
- What is up with this Plasma Technology?
- Currently NASA owns the land, the buildings will be parceled out, you will have outsiders coming, making a profit, tax affects?
- Tax basis for tenants...what does the local area get for this park beside jobs. How will cost of the above items be taken care of under the current county budget?
- Taxes - tax base. Will the building owner pay property taxes?
- What beneficial taxes will come from this?
- How does this tie into the Brevard Community College (BCC) /Al Koller project?
- Any incentives for people who have been laid off to use them for training purposes in the new buildings for new employees?
- Can a vendor capitalist build a facility in the spaceport for rent of office spaces, not labs?

- The OTTED strongly supports the ISRP project which is the subject of the notice of intent to prepare an EIS by NASA. Our office has played a strong role in the development of the concept behind ISRP, working closely with NASA KSC through the FSA. We helped to secure a \$26 million dollar appropriation for the "anchor" facility- the SERPL which is a state-of-the-art life sciences and space research facility. As part of this partnership between NASA/KSC, FSA, and the State of Florida, we have ensured that Florida's universities will have ongoing access to the facility for research activities, for both faculty and students. Support for this project will further several state and local objectives and is consistent under 15 CFR 930, Subpart C.

### **Security**

- How will NASA ensure security of their property and those adjacent?
- Security issues have been tightening up for North Merritt Island recently. Only one way out, thru the Barge Canal. Now you are going to open up a road for another way out for security problems.

### **Traffic**

- Concerns over watching the launches from this new access point, people/traffic problems.
- How will NASA keep tourists "moving" along SR-3 during launch days?

### **Transportation**

- What will be the function of Space Coast Regional Airport in the transportation plan of your project?
- Are there any plans to include at some point a "regional transportation system" (i.e. Maglev)?
- What would be coming in and out of our local airport?
- Are you anticipating any growth at their local airport?
- Growth of the SCRA has potential to impact nearby areas (e.g., Enchanted Forest (EF) Sanctuary off the north/south runway). The EF is very unique ecologically. Will the ISRP development EIS deal with the secondary effects of the SCRA?

### **Solid Waste**

- Status of Ransom Road Landfill.

### **Mitigation**

- Will the mitigation be developed all at once or phased out?
-

## **Appendix A**

### **Copies of Letters with Scoping Information and Data**

(not included – see Administrative Record)